

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

**No. 149**

### **Introduced by Assembly Member Weber**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Eggman, Fong, Frazier, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)*

May 13, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 149—Relative to School Attendance Awareness Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 149, as amended, Weber. School Attendance Awareness Month.

This measure would designate the month of September 2014 as School Attendance Awareness Month, and would encourage public officials, educators, and communities in California to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature and the Governor enacted a local  
2 control funding formula and clearly established school attendance  
3 as a matter of great state interest by explicitly identifying pupil  
4 engagement, as measured by school attendance and chronic  
5 absenteeism rates, as a state priority; and

6 WHEREAS, The Legislature first enacted Senate Bill 1357 of  
7 the 2009–10 Regular Session to establish the definition of a  
8 “chronic absentee” as a pupil who misses 10 percent or more of  
9 school for any reason, making no distinction between excused and  
10 unexcused absences; and

11 WHEREAS, For the first time, every county office of education,  
12 school district, and charter school in California is required to  
13 calculate chronic absenteeism rates and establish specific goals  
14 and actions to improve pupil engagement; and

15 WHEREAS, The impact of chronic absenteeism hits low-income  
16 pupils and children of color particularly hard if they do not have  
17 the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom.  
18 Low-income pupils and children of color are more likely to face  
19 systemic barriers in getting to school, including unreliable  
20 transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or  
21 unaffordable housing, and even unfair discipline policies; and

22 WHEREAS, Improving school climate, reducing instruction  
23 missed due to discipline policies and out-of-school suspensions,  
24 and implementing schoolwide positive behavior intervention and  
25 support systems and restorative justice practices can have a  
26 significant impact on improving attendance; and

27 WHEREAS, School attendance improves, and chronic  
28 absenteeism is significantly reduced, when schools, parents, and  
29 communities work together to monitor and promote good  
30 attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to  
31 school; and

32 WHEREAS, Schools and school districts must do more to track,  
33 calculate, and share data on how many and which pupils are  
34 chronically absent so that schools and communities can work to  
35 deliver the right interventions for the right pupils; and

36 WHEREAS, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom  
37 Torlakson, Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, Secretary of  
38 California Health and Human Services Diane Dooley, Chief Justice  
39 Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, and others have joined efforts to combat  
40 chronic absenteeism to encourage state and local action to improve

1 the overall health, safety, and well-being of our children by  
2 promoting public awareness and reforms that improve school  
3 attendance; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
6 September 2014 as School Attendance Awareness Month in the  
7 State of California, and encourages public officials, educators, and  
8 communities in California to observe the month with appropriate  
9 activities and programs; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby joins with other  
11 communities across our nation to increase awareness of the  
12 importance of school attendance by addressing school attendance  
13 barriers and the root causes of chronic absence; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
15 of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the  
16 Attorney General, the Secretary of California Health and Human  
17 Services, the Chief Justice of California, the author, and the  
18 coauthors for appropriate distribution.

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